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Message Text

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62
ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 L-03 NSC-10 INT-08 DODE-00

PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 TRSE-00 OMB-01 DRC-01

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R 212101Z NOV 73
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4403

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUENOS AIRES 8553

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, AR
SUBJECT: LABOR MANAGEMENT RELATIONS: US FIRMS

REF BA 8412

SUMMARY. LABOR CONFLICT AT ST JOSEPH LEAD AGUILAR MINE WAS RESOLVED NOV 20 FOLLOWING MINLABOR CONCILIATION EFFORTS. GENERAL MOTORS DISPUTE WITH UNION OVER PRDUCTION STEP-UP THREATENS CITY-WIDE STRIKE IN AUTOMOTIVE SECTOR. END SUMMARY

1. LABOR CONFLICT AT AGUILAR MINE, SUBISIDIARY OF ST JOSEPH LEAD OF NEW YORK, WAS RESOLVED LATE EVENING NOV 20 FOLLOWING LENGTHY NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN UNION, FIRM, AND MINLABOR. SETTLEMENT INCLUDED COMPANY AGREEMENT TO PAY, INDEPENDENTLY OF WAGES DETERMINED BY COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT, SPECIAL BONUSES OF 10.13 PESOS PER 8-HOUR DAY FOR WAGE WORKERS, AND 253.25 PESOS PER MONTH FOR SALARIED EMPLOYEES (U$S 1: A$P 9.93). ALSO, AN ADDITIONAL BONUS WILL BE PAID TO MINER WORKING SECOND SATURDAY SHIFT, WHO BY LAW ARE AUTHORIZED DOUBLE PAY. NOTE: AVERAGE SEMI-MONTHLY WAGE FOR 8-HOUR DAY REPORTEDLY WAS 450 PESOS PRIOR TO THIS AGREEMENT, ALTHOUGH OVERTIME WORK - WHICH WAS STOPPED - HAD RAISED WAGES CONSIDERABLY. COMPAY
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FURTHER AGREED TO PROVIDE, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, ADDITIONAL

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"ADEQUATE" HOUSING AND MEDICAL SERVICES. NOV 6 COMPANY/UNION AGREEMENT, WHICH RESTORED EARLIER WORKING CONDITIONS AND GRANTED 70 PERCENT INCREASE, WAS DECLARED NULL AND VOID FOR HAVING BEEN REACHED "UNDER DURESS".

2. COMPANY PRESIDENT CONFIRMED TO EMBASSY DETAILS OF AGREEMENT, AND STATED THAT COMPANY HAD MINLABOR ASSURANCES THAT JUJUY PROVINCE LABOR MINISTER, WHO WAS PREVIOUSLY LABOR UNION LEADER AT MINE - AND WHO COMPANY CHARGES WITH MAJOR RESPONSIBILITY FOR STRIKE - WOULD BE REPLACED.

3. MECHANICS UNION (SMATA) HELD 24-HOUR WORK STOPPAGE NOV 19 AT GENERAL MOTORS COMPANY BA PLANT, AND HAVE CALLED NOV 22 CITY-WIDE STRIKE IN AUTOMOTIVE SECTOR TO PROTEST GM FIRING OF 32 EMPLOYEES, INCLUDING PLANT UNION REPRESENTATIVES. CONFLICT IS PART OF ONGOING DISPUTE OVER COMPANY IMPOSED PRODUCTION STEP-UP. MINLABOR IS PRESENTLY HOLDING DISCUSSIONS WITH COMPANY AND UNION IN ATTEMPT TO RESOLVE ISSUE.
KREBS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR RELATIONS, LABOR DISPUTES, LABOR ARBITRATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BUENOS08553
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731121/aaaaaovw.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: BA 8412
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15-Jan-2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <06-Feb-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

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30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LABOR MANAGEMENT RELATIONS: US FIRMS
TAGS: ELAB, AR, ST JOSEPH LEAD
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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